

**From:** boyd  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/27/01 11:48am  
**Subject:** DOJ proposed Microsoft Antitrust Settlement

Reading the proposed settlement, and the arguments put forward by the DOJ in support of it, I find myself wondering how the DOJ could craft a solution that not only does not solve the problems it addresses, but exacerbates them.

As a Computer Scientist who teaches about Operating Systems and Networks, I am very familiar with the problems that have arisen as a result of Microsoft's monopoly on the desktop OS market. These problems have cost the United States billions of dollar in lost time and productivity. These problems threaten our domestic security and make us easy to attack from abroad. Simply put, any monopolist in this area makes us easier to attack, and Microsoft, with their very poor security record, make us a sitting duck for any 13 year old kid with a virus kit. We talk of bioterrorism, but I think there is a much greater danger of real economic loss from computer terrorism.

There aren't any easy solutions to this problem, but the need for remedies is real and the ones put forth by the DOJ are not useful remedies. If you adopt them, Microsoft will have been given your permission to continue and even increase its monopolist behavior and our country will be damaged by a lack of innovation in computer software and by a lack of security. Please give serious consideration to the alternative proposals put forth by the states that have, wisely, refused to accept the DOJ settlement proposal and to the suggestion you receive during this comment period.

Sincerely,  
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